

# Old First Presbyterian Church



## Fifth Sunday in Lent March 17, 2024

### Worship Through Praising God

*Please fill out a guest card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate or give it to an usher.*

*Silence is requested as we prepare our hearts for worship.*

*\* At the asterisk, please rise in body or spirit.*

**Prelude** Two Preludes on Let Us Break Bread Together

Charles Callahan (1951-2023)

Martha Sobaje (born 1948)

### Welcome and Church Life

**Introit** Halleluya! Pelo Tso Rona

South African; arrangement from *Freedom is Coming*

**Refrain** Halleluya! We sing your praises,  
all our hearts are filled with gladness.  
Halleluya! We sing your praises,  
all our hearts are filled with gladness.

**Verse** Christ the Lord to us said:  
I am wine, I am bread;  
I am wine, I am bread,  
give to all who thirst and hunger.

**Refrain** Halleluya!...

From the Sotho language, translation by Gracia Grindal (born 1943)

**\*Call to Worship**

Cindy Burt

Leader Why are you here?

People **I am seeking God with my whole heart,  
with my entire mind,  
with a fire burning in my bones.**

Leader I see it! You're in the right place!

This is God's house. Here we learn the ways of Jesus.

People **Why are you here?**

Leader I am seeking God with my whole heart,  
with my entire mind,  
with a fire burning in my bones.

People **We see that in you! You're in the right place.**

**This is God's house. Here we learn the ways of Jesus.**

Leader Let us worship God.

People **Let us learn from the Spirit this morning!**

**\*Hymn 209 My Song is Love Unknown**

1 My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me,  
love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be.

O who am I that for my sake  
may Lord should take frail flesh, and die?

2 He came from heaven's throne salvation to bestow;  
the world that was his own would not its Savior know.

But O my Friend, my Friend in deed,  
who at my need his life did spend!

3 Sometimes we strew his way, and his sweet praises sing,  
resounding all the day hosannas to our King.

Then "Crucify!" is all our breath,  
and for his death we thirst and cry.

4 Unheeding, we will have our dear Lord made away,  
a murderer to save, the prince of life to slay.

Yet steadfast he to suffering goes,  
that he his foes from thence might free.

5 Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine:  
never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine.

This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend.

**Prayer of  
Confession**

Cindy Burt

**Holy God, We long to be lifelong learners,  
to not get stuck,**

**to grow our hearts and minds as we grow in years.**

We long to approach you  
with curiosity and an open mind.  
Instead, we often live as if we know best.  
We are often are lazy, distracted or undisciplined.  
We mean to get around to it but it never seems to be the right time.  
We forget that the disciples called you “Rabbi, Teacher.”

*Let us pray silently.*

Forgive us for the times when we fail to be curious.  
Forgive us for the times when we assume we know best.  
Forgive us for the moments when we imagine  
that our learning is done and that we have all the answers.  
Like Peter—  
who was brave enough to ask,  
“How many times should we forgive?”—  
make us brave and focused.  
Spark a desire in us to learn,  
and may our curiosity carry our faith into deeper waters.  
With hope and humility, we pray. Amen.

**\*Assurance of  
Forgiveness**

Leader

Family of faith, when Peter asked Jesus,  
“How many times should I forgive?”  
Jesus responded with abundance.

That abundance exists for you as well.  
No matter what you have done or left undone,  
no matter what lessons you have learned or are still learning,  
God’s abundant grace exists for you.  
God’s love will never run out.

People

**Open our minds to hear, learn, live and rest in this good news:  
We are forgiven. We are loved.  
We can learn new ways. We are invited to serve.  
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*Sung Assurance**

Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

**Live in charity and steadfast love.  
Live in charity; God will dwell with you.**

Latin, 8<sup>th</sup> century, English translation: Taizé Community, 1991

**Offering**

*Usbers will now receive the offering. You may also make your offering  
electronically using the QR-code to the right.*



**Anthem** If Ye Love Me Richard DeLong (1951-1994)

If ye love me, keep my commandments,  
If ye love me, keep my law,  
and I will pray unto God,  
and God will give you another comforter,  
and God may abide with you forever.  
E'en the spirit of truth may abide with you forever.

John 14:15-17

**\*Doxology** Come, thou Fount of every blessing;  
tune my heart to send by grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above;  
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
Mount of God's unchanging love!

Time with  
Our Children

**\*The Peace**

Leader Peace be with you.  
People And also with you.

<b>Worship Through Hearing God's Word</b>
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**Scripture** Psalm 119:9-16  
Matthew 18:15-22

**Sung Response** **Return to You**  
*We sing the response twice.*

I have a wond'ring heart, and a fickle faith.  
Can you find me here, can I see your face?  
Help me return to you, help me return to you.

**Sermon**

Pastor Henderson

**Affirmation  
of Faith**

Leader We believe that questions are a building block of faith.

People **"How many times should I forgive?"**

**"Jesus, where are you going?"**

**"Why is it so hard to do right?"**

Leader We believe that humble curiosity can open our eyes.

People **"Where does it hurt?"**

**"What do you need?"**

**"How can I help?"**

Leader We believe that God is a teacher. We believe we can still learn.  
 People **“Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.”**  
**“Here I am.”**  
**“Send me.”**

Leader We believe that faith invites our whole being to engage,  
 People **with all our heart,**  
**with all our mind,**  
**with all our strength.**

Leader We believe. Help our unbelief.  
 People **In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.**

<b>Worship Through Holy Communion</b>
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**Invitation to the  
 Lord’s Table**

**The Great  
 Thanksgiving**

Leader The Lord be with you.  
 People **And also with you.**

Leader Lift up your hearts.  
 People **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
 People **It is right to give our thanks and praise**

*The leader continues the prayer.*

Leader ... as we join the universe in praise:  
 People **Holy, holy, holy Lord,**  
**God of power and might,**  
**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**  
**Hosanna in the highest.**  
**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The leader continues the prayer.*

Leader ... as our sacrifice of praise:  
 People **Dying you destroyed our death.**  
**Rising you restored our life.**  
**Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

*The leader continues the prayer.*

**The Lord’s  
 Prayer** **Our Father, who art in heaven,**  
**hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done,**  
**on earth as it is in heaven.**  
**Give us this day our daily bread.**

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,  
forever. Amen.

**The Words of  
Institution**

**The Bread  
and the Cup**

*All are invited to come forward to share in the Lord's Supper.  
Receive the bread from the pastor, then dip it in the wine or grape juice.  
There is wine in the chalice and grape juice in the cup.*

<b>Worship Through Responding to God's Word</b>
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- \*Hymn**    **Love Your Neighbor and Forgive**  
*Sung to the tune REDHEAD 76, Hymn 220*
- 1    **“Love your neighbor and forgive”**  
**Words so simple yet so hard**  
**We have wounds because we've lived**  
**Calluses enfold our hearts**  
**Jesus reaches out to touch**  
**Wounds and hearts that hold too much**
- 2    **Sounds of bombs and bullets ring**  
**War is all we've ever known**  
**Pacifists are framed as weak**  
**We rely on might alone**  
**Jesus paves the paths of peace**  
**Even as the threats increase**
- 3    **Love is risky, peace is faint**  
**And forgiveness feels naive**  
**All are sinners, all are saints**  
**And we all God's grace receive**  
**So we follow mercy's way**  
**Softening our hearts to grace**

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**\*Charge and  
Benediction**

**Choir**

Paul Peterson (born 1945)

May the grace of Christ our Savior,  
And the Father's boundless love,  
With the holy spirit's favor,  
Rest up on us from above.

**Postlude**

Fugue on the Kyrie

François Couperin (1668-1733)

## Old First Presbyterian Church

Sharing God's Love, Welcome, and Justice  
on Our Corner, in Our City, and in the World



[www.oldfirst.org](http://www.oldfirst.org)

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Find Us on Meta/Facebook and YouTube

### Lent 2024

#### Wandering Heart: Figuring Out Faith with Peter

The graphic designs here and on the cover are by the Reverend Lauren Wright Pittman; the background painting and photography are by the Reverend Lisle Gwynn Garrity; and today's liturgy is adapted from Rev. Sarah A. Speed with music by Can Olgun, all of A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

#### Today's Coffee Hour

Jeanne Kirkwood has given today's coffee hour in memory of Ken Mathews.

#### Help Color Butterflies at Coffee Hour

The Worship Committee is featuring butterflies on Easter Day. Butterflies represent transformation, change, and resurrection. Just as a caterpillar enters its chrysalis to be transformed into a butterfly, Jesus was laid in a tomb to be raised to new life three days later.

So we need your help coloring paper butterflies. **Please take few minutes during coffee hour to create some fanciful butterflies for the reredos.**

#### Officers Retreat, Saturday, March 23

The pastor, elders and deacons will meet with the Reverend Grace Suzuki for an officers retreat on Saturday, March 23, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. We will meet at St Luke's Episcopal Church, 1755 Clay Street at Van Ness Avenue – just a block away from Old First. Mark your calendars!

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday Community Dinner, March 23

This month's 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday Community Dinner falls on Saturday, March 23. Can you help serve the meal and feast with our guests at the dinner? Volunteers are welcomed from 4:30 pm on. Let us know you can help: [4thsaturdaydinner@oldfirst.org](mailto:4thsaturdaydinner@oldfirst.org)

#### Free Concert: UC Santa Barbara Chamber Choir, March 25

*We love free!* The University of California Santa Barbara Chamber Choir led by Brent Wilson, Director of Choral Activities, presents a program of choral works highlighting the passage of time, featuring works by Caroline Shaw, Ola Gjeilo, Allahrakka Rahman and György Ligeti at **7:00 pm, Monday, March 25**. Mark your calendar and bring a friend!

**Holy Week and Easter 2024**

**PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24**

**11:00 am** Worship at Old First Presbyterian Church  
We will receive the **One Great Hour of Sharing** special offering this Sunday.  
Bring your fish-boxes and your generosity.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 28**

**6:00 pm** at Old First Presbyterian Church: Note Time!

**GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29**

**7:00 pm** at Old First Presbyterian Church

**EASTER DAY, MARCH 31**

**10:30 am** Choral Prelude and **11:00 am** Worship at Old First Presbyterian Church  
We will close worship by singing the “Hallelujah” chorus from G.F. Handel’s *Messiah*.  
An **Easter Extravaganza Coffee Hour** will follow worship.  
**Please bring treats to share!**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER, APRIL 7**

**11:00 am** Worship with Hymn-Sing at Old First Presbyterian Church

**This Week at Old First**

**Sunday March 17**

4:00 pm O1C: Junior Bach Festival: “a new generation of superbly talented and virtuosic young soloists and ensembles... expressing the genius of Bach’s timeless music”

7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall

**Monday March 18**

6:45 pm O1C: Pre-Concert Talk

8:00 pm O1C: Earplay “Life Cycle” Concert and Gala: compositions by five contemporary composers including two West coast premieres, a US premiere and a world premiere

**Saturday March 23**

9:00 am Interfaith Food Pantry: Simply use the QR-code to the right to sign up!



5:15 pm 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday Community Dinner, Fellowship Hall

8:00 pm O1C: Conspiracy of Venus, women’s vocal ensemble: Original *a capella* arrangements of Leonard Cohen, Joni Mitchell, Bjork, PJ Harvey, and more

**Sunday March 24 Palm Sunday**

11:00 am Worship

After Coffee Hour Remembrance of Bob Fleming

7:15 pm AA Friendly Circle, Fellowship Hall

**Monday March 25**

7:00 pm Free Concert: UC Santa Barbara Chamber Choir